

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Withdrawn/ currently amended) A method for expression by using *Escherichia coli*, a yeast, an insect cell, or a mammal cell transformed with a plasmid comprising a DNA sequence that can express a monomer protein according to claim 4 12.
6. (Currently amended) An agent comprising the monomer protein according to claim 4 12 in combination with an excipient.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The agent according to claim 6, wherein said monomer protein is in an amount sufficient to induce differentiation of osteoblasts.

12. (Currently amended) A monomer protein comprising an amino acid sequence belonging to the TGF- $\beta$  super family, wherein a the cytokine related to dimer formation of the protein has been replaced with an amino acid selected from the group consisting of alanine, serine, threonine and valine, wherein said monomer protein comprises an the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO:2 or an the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO:2 wherein alanine at position 83 is replaced with a serine, threonine or valine and wherein said monomer protein induces differentiation of osteoblasts measured by promoting alkaline phosphatase activity.

13. (Currently amended) The monomer protein according to claim 4 12, wherein said monomer protein is MP52.